DEMAND XX.—AGRICULTURE.

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture*): I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 13,30,641 under Demand XX—Agriculture including Debt Heads—Loans.

MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): I rise to move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,400 for Special Officer by Re. 1, to discuss the necessity for opening manure depots in all villages where paddy cultivation is predominant.

Sir, at present almost all the villages in the State are not supplied with manure. They have to go to the nearest town to get the manure for cultivation, and it is a costly affair for the agriculturists. Therefore, I request the Department to open manure depots in all the important agricultural villages where paddy and other agricultural produce are grown and help the ryots to improve the standard of their crops so that at the present time of food scarcity it will be of the greatest help to the country at large. So I earnestly request the Government to see that manure depots are opened in all the important villages where paddy cultivation is going on.

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI: The department will only be glad to open manure depots in all the villages provided it gets sufficient quantity of manure from outside. It is with very great difficulty that the department has been getting chemical manures from outside. Honourable members of this House know that there is no chemical manure manufactured in this State. Whatever manure that we get, we get from the Government of India under controlled rate. The quantity for India is being obtained from Canada or the United States and for Travancore we get a quota according to our area and estimated requirements, but the quantity that we have been getting for the last two or three years has not been sufficient to make it available for all the villages. It is expected that during the next year, when the supply position is better and transport facilities are greater, we would be able to have greater number of depots in this State, with a much wider basis of distribution. The Travancore Fertilisers and Chemicals will also then begin the manufacture of fertilisers at Alwaye. In the meanwhile whatever manure we get additionally will be distributed.

In this connection I may inform this House that Government have sanctioned the opening of more depots in co-operation with the Department of Co-operation and village unions (Contd.)

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 O' clock tomorrow.

The House rose for the day at 5 P. M.

S. VAIDYANATHA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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